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## WHAT A YOUNG WOMAN'S BUSINESS CLUB HAS DONE

DEAR EDITOR: As the social side of the nurse who is located in a small town has little opportunity for development, I thought perhaps some of the nurses thus situated might be interested in the organization of a young woman's business club. A club of this nature was organized in Jackson about six months ago (not by a nurse, however). Its constitution provides that any white woman of good character and standing in the state of Mississippi who is actively engaged in wage-earning or who is recognized as a business woman, may become a member. The purpose of the organization is to provide means of getting better acquainted, to endeavor to elevate the standard of the vocation in which each member is engaged, and to work together for the good of Jackson and the club. The dues are ten cents a month. On birthdays, each member gives as many pennies as she is years old. The club numbers 300 members.

This summer the club provided for a swimming class once a week and for gymnasium work twice a week. Women who had almost forgotten how to play, joined, and now claim that the "Gym and Swim" exercises aided them materially in going through the hot summer. The club takes an interest in all matters pertaining to the welfare of the community. It purchased and presented a flag to one of the state regiments, aided in furnishing the visiting nurses' office and was instrumental in securing the consent of the business houses to close one afternoon each week during the summer months. The monthly meetings are usually social affairs. At the last meeting the Young Men's Business Club entertained the entire organization at a watermelon party. In towns where there is no Young Women's Christian Association or nursing association, a nurse would get much pleasure and profit from bringing about the organization of such a body of women.

*Mississippi.*

F. E. H.

## A COTTAGE HOSPITAL

DEAR EDITOR: Nearly five years ago, I came to this county seat of about 5000 inhabitants, with a good practical business woman who had had some experience in nursing. We took a house that has been newly plastered and painted, visited the doctors and told them we would care for any cases they would send us. There was in the town a well-equipped hospital, owned and operated by a doctor, but for various reasons neither he nor his hospital were popular and all the other physicians were sending their operative cases out of town. Before our house was in order the patients began to come and during the first year we paid our running expenses and had made a good payment on our equipment. During the first two years we employed the local graduate nurses when we needed extra help, which made our expenses heavy. During the second year our business increased and we were doing well when one of the doctors who did a good deal of surgical work suggested an insurance scheme for miners which looked to us like a get-rich-quick, graft scheme, so we did not take it up. Later we learned that this doctor had rented a house and was promising to care for the miners and their families if they would sign a contract to pay fifty cents a month for a year, the money to be sent from the mine office and deducted from the miners' wages. This seemed to appeal to them and they signed so fast that we lost many cases and began to fear the doctor was right when he boasted that he would soon have the only hospital in town. We did not like to be worsted, so we kept on and were

able to pay expenses, though with very little remuneration for our own services. Then we began employing and training women who would have liked to enter a training school but were prevented by the age limit or who had home ties which prevented their entering other schools, paying them a fair amount from the first. This is the point I would like to emphasize. These helpers have proved very satisfactory. We have five who have homes and who come when we need them. They do good work and are good students as well. One has had three years with us and is a good surgical and operating room nurse. They are all very dependable, more so than young girls. They understand from the first that the work here will not prepare them to go out as graduates. They have plenty of calls but prefer hospital work so do very little outside. So far they have never charged more than \$15 a week when working on private cases. Occasionally a young girl comes for a time to find out whether she likes the work well enough to take the training in a larger hospital. Our equipment is still meagre and we are obliged to improvise a good deal, but we have been very successful with our cases. We have a fine location and are having our share of patronage and are making expenses. I am, myself, a graduate of twenty-five years' standing and have done private duty most of that time, so I enjoy being at home in one place, though it has not been easy and the hours have been long. I should never advise young nurses to take up this kind of work, but I do believe it is a good field for the older women who, like myself, are at a time of life when it is almost impossible to care for themselves in other peoples' homes and live with the supplies they can carry in a suit case, yet can do good hard work in a home of their own. Our income this past year was \$4000 and if conditions and prices were normal we ought to have a fair amount beside living well.

*Iowa.*

C. D. M.

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## TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

### ARKANSAS

THE ARKANSAS STATE GRADUATE NURSES' ASSOCIATION will hold its annual meeting in Hot Springs, November 7, 8 and 9. All members are requested to be present.

### INDIANA

THE INDIANA STATE BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS will hold its semi-annual examination at the Capitol Building, Indianapolis, November 15 and 16, 1916.

EDNA HUMPHREY, *Secretary*,  
Crawfordsville, Ind.